

Dear members of the Environmental Committee,

My name is Scott Bradley and I am the owner of Mainline Heating and Supply, an ALTERNATIVE HEATING store in Ashford CT. I have a very knowledgeable staff of ten, who work very hard, every day to educate our customers in the proper operation of their OWF's.

I run a very quality business devoted to the alternative heating needs of Connecticut's struggling work force.

Enacting bill #830 would be devastating to my business as well as the consumers who have purchased these units.

I do know that there is still a very small percentage of irresponsible users, hurting the rights of responsible furnace owners. These same names come up on the DEP complaint list time and time again. Do you know that over 75% of all of these complaints are generated from only 8 furnaces? For your information, the furnace with the most amount of complaints has been shut down since April, and it is being removed?

Yesterday, I received an email from Senator Blumenthal's office stating "that it makes sense to try to work out a compromise that addresses health and environmental concerns while providing opportunities for individuals to use such furnaces". Last year, when I met with the Attorney General at Mainline, he thanked me for the education on the OWFs and 3 days later, on March 8th, 2010 he retracted his original statements spoken and published on December 9th, 2009. He quickly saw that the furnaces are not what had been portrayed to him previously by EHHI. He has since written "Wood has been used for centuries for fuel and comfort, particularly in CT and New England, where it is integral to our culture and tradition. It is a renewable and plentiful source of energy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil and other fuel sources". End of quote.

When used properly, with seasoned firewood, during the heating season, these OWF's are a fantastic, reliable, carbon neutral, safe source of free heat.

Penalizing CT's hard working citizens by banning the OWF's is not the right answer and extremely unconstitutional.

Voting out an industry that eliminates our dependence on foreign oil makes absolutely no sense at all.

There are constant improvements within the industry happening on a daily basis resulting in new technology and even more efficient and cleaner burning units.

Enforcing the current law is what really needs to happen at the local level.

The fines collected, should more than subsidize the enforcement officer's salary. Second and third offenses should double and triple, and fines collected should be used appropriately where needed to resolve these issues.

I am also a very proud owner of 2 Central Boiler outdoor wood furnaces. I have one at my home, and one at my business where we heat 7000 sq feet of commercial building. I have never, ever had an issue with any of my neighbors at either location. For the last 14 years I have eliminated my heating expenses with the use of an OWF saving my family and my business thousands and thousands of dollars in heating fuel.

As you know, CT has received a lot of criticism for being a non business friendly State. Over regulation and the high cost of energy puts a huge stress on businesses in this State making it very difficult for the small business to survive. The constant battle with the State and local gov'ts as well as fighting EHHI and their misguided facts and lies has been a tremendous burden to our business financially. These issues have cost our business over 3 ½ million dollars annually due to the negative publicity. Consider that loss of tax revenue to the state of CT. Again, this is an example of how difficult it is to run a small business in this State. Banning OWFs in CT would eliminate a huge percentage of our customer base and add a lot of additional costs to heating our building and make it impossible for my business to survive.

Thank you for your time.

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